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USSR: Ustinov's Interview

Defense Minister Ustinov's interview with TASS yesterday was intended both as the authoritative Soviet response to President Reagan's arms control speech last month and as an effort to spur world criticism of US defense and arms control policies.

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Ustinov threatened that if the US proceeds with the deployment of MX, the USSR will deploy a similar ICBM. He condemned the "dense pack" concept as a violation of the SALT agreements and rejected US counterarguments as "deliberate lies." He further affirmed that a US decision to defend MX with an antiballistic missile system would be a "direct breach" of the ABM Treaty if the US chose to relocate its designated ABM site from Grand Forks to another ICBM complex.

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Comment: Ustinov's threat of a Soviet counter-deployment may refer to Soviet ICBM deployment programs that have been under way for several years. Two new Soviet ICBMs are known to be in an advanced stage of development, although probably neither was conceived in response to MX. One of them may carry as many as 10 warheads--the same number as MX.

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Ustinov may be seizing on the MX decision to put the onus for the arms race on Washington by portraying Moscow's missile program as a justified and necessary response. His assault on alleged US ABM plans are similarly designed to question US arms control motives. Although the US noted in a Common Understanding to the ABM Treaty that its ABM system would be located at Grand Forks, the treaty itself allows each side to defend either its capital or an unspecified ICBM complex.

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The choice of Ustinov to respond directly to President Reagan's speech in such a lengthy and specific rejoinder suggests that the Defense Minister may be emerging as the new regime's principal spokesman on defense issues--a role formerly assumed by Brezhnev. In a separate address to a Soviet military audience yesterday, Ustinov similarly warned that Moscow would respond to US weapons programs. At the same time, he noted that existing Soviet military power is "sufficient" to meet the current challenge from the US--perhaps suggesting a leadership effort to preempt pressure to increase defense spending in response to US programs.

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USSR DEFENSE MINISTER DENOUNCES U.S. ARMS BUILDUP

TAKE 1--USTINOV ON U.S. ARMS BUILDUP

LD061308 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1240 GMT 6 DEC 82

(TEXT) MOSCOW, 6 DEC (TASS) -- "AT PRESENT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW IN THE WAKE OF THIS POLICY IS OF AN EVER MORE DANGEROUS NATURE," DMITRIY USTINOV, MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO, USSR DEFENSE MINISTER AND MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UION, STATED AT A MEETING OF THE PARTY AKTIV OF THE MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT.

"DESPITE THE PRESENT OBJECTIVE REALITIES, AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS AND DESPITE ALL GOOD SENSE" USTINOV SAID, "WASHINGTON LIKE BEFORE IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN IN ORDER TO OUTDO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE MILITARY SENSE AND AT THE SAME TIME TO GIVE THEMSELVES FULL SCOPE FOR WINNING WORLD DOMINATION."

THIS AIM, THE SPEAKER CONTINUED, IS SERVED BY RAISING TO AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL THE INTENSITY OF MILITARY PREPARATIONS BY IMPERIALISM.

IN THE 3 AND ONE-HALF DECADES SINCE THE WAR ALONE THE UNITED STATES HAS SPENT $2 QUINTILLION ON MILITARY PURPOSES. AND NOW, IN THE COMING 5-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1983-1987 ALONE, THEY PLAN TO SPEND MORE THAN 1.6 QUINTILLION ON THESE PURPOSES, THE LION'S SHARE OF THESE COLOSSAL RESOURCES GOING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATETIC OFFENSIVE FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF ALL KINDS.

RECENTLY THE U.S. PRESIDENT ADOPTED A DECISION TO DEPLOY ANOTHER 100 NEW MX INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC NUCLEAR MISSILES.

TOGETHER WITH THIS THE NEW PERSHING-II EUROSTRATEGIC MISSILES AND MEDIUM-RANGE CRUISE MISSILES WITH VARIOUS BASING FORMS ARE GOING INTO PRODUCTION. PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS ARE NOW ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR THEIR DEPLOYMENT IN THE WEST EUROPEAN NATO COUNTRIES. MILITARY SPACE SYSTEMS ARE BEING DEVELOPED. THE ARSENAL OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IS BEING RENEWED AND CONSIDERABLY INCREASED.

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THE MIGHT OF COMBAT-READY GROUPS OF FORCES AND FLEETS IS BEING BUILT UP. THE EFFICIENCY OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IS BEING GREATLY INCREASED. THE NETWORK OF MILITARY BASES AND OTHER MILITARY FACILITIES (OBYEKTY) AIMED AGAINST THE USSR AND THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY IS BEING PERFECTED.

U.S. MILITARY DOCTRINES, ENSUING FROM WASHINGTON'S PROCLAIMED STRATEGY OF "DIRECTION CONFRONTATION," ARE ALSO AIMED AT ACHIEVING MILITARY SUPREMACY OVER THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. WORLD OVERLORDSHIP, DMITRIY USTINOV CONTINUED. THE DOCTRINES INCLUDE A BROAD RANGE OF AGGRESSIVE CONCEPTS -- FROM A MASSIVE FIRST NUCLEAR STRIKE TO THE WAGING OF "LIMITED" AND "PROTRACTED" NUCLEAR WARS. BUT FROM THE DIRECTIVES MADE PUBLIC IN THE UNITED STATES, THEY AMOUNT TO "THE DESTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM AS A SOCIOPOLITICAL SYSTEM."

THE LARGE-SCALE EXERCISES OF U.S. AND NATO LAND AND NAVAL FORCES ARE IN EFFECT REHEARSALS FOR STARTING AND WAGING NUCLEAR WAR AGAINST THE USSR AND THE WARSAW TREATY.

(TEXT) AND FINALLY THE NEW "CRUSADE" AGAINST COMMUNISM PROCLAIMED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS THE AIM OF ACHIEVING WORLD DOMINATION BY THE UNITED STATES. ITS PURPOSE IS TO POLITICALLY ISOLATE AND ECONOMICALLY WEAKEN THE USSR AND ITS FRIENDS. TO THESE ENDS AN ACONOMIC, POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL ADVANCE HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN AGAINST OUR COUNTRY AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY.

OF COURSE, ON THE HISTORICAL PLANE ATTEMPTS BY NEWLY ARRIVED ASPIRANTS TO WORLD DOMINATION ARE ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT HOPE, THE MARSHAL SAID. ONE HAS, EVIDENTLY, TO SUFFER FROM COMPLETE AMNESIA TO FORGET HOW THESE ATTEMPTS HAVE SUCH STONG SUPPORTERS AS THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES.

ALL THAT IS SO. BUT IT WOULD BE A BIG MISTAKE TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES TODAY HAVE HUGE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWERFUL, WELL-TRAINED ARMED FORCES EQUIPPED WITH MODERN WEAPONS. THE THREAT OF WAR, THE THREAT OF AGGRESSION FROM THEIR SIDE IS A HARSH REALITY OF OUR TIME. THIS REQUIRES FROM US DOUBLED, TRIPLE VIGILANCE, TIRELESS DAILY WORK ON STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSES, INCREASED COMBAT MIGHT AND COMBAT READINESS BY OUR ARMED FORCES.

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WE, USTINOV STRESSE, HAVE NEVER AND NEVER DO MAKE A SECRET OF THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S MILITARY MIGHT IS SUFFICIENT, THAT ITS ARMED FORCES ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN WEAPONS AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT AND ARE ABLE TO FULFILL ANY TASKS. AT THE SAME TIME, AND THIS WAS STRESSED AGAIN WITH UTMOST CLARITY AT THE NOVEMBER CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, OUR MIGHT IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF DEFENSE, AND THE ARMED FORCES ARE INTENDED FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PEACEFUL LABOR OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE, AND THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE.

OUR MILITARY DOCTRINE TOO IS OF A STRICTLY DEFENSIVE NATURE. THE SOVIET UNION'S PLEDGE NOT TO BE FIRST TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS MAY SERVE AS ONE OF THE CLEAREST AFFIRMATIONS OF THIS. ALSO AT TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON MILITARY QUESTIONS WE CONSISTENTLY SEEK A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF ARMED CONFRONTATION ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY FOR BOTH SIDES.

ALL THIS IS EVIDENCE OF A TRUE LOVE OF PEACE WHICH IS AN ORGANIC CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR SOCIALIST STATE. BUT LET NOBODY TAKE OUR LOVE OF PEACE FOR WEAKNESS, OR TRY TO TALK THE LANGUAGE OF THREATS AND DIKTAT WITH US. WE NEED NEITHER OTHER PEOPLE'S LANDS OR THEIR RICHES; WE NEED NOTHING THAT BELONGS TO ANYBODY ELSE. BUT NEITHER WILL WE EVER FOREGO ANYTHING VITAL TO US, ANYTHING WE HOLD DEAR AND TAKE PRIDE IN.

(ENDALL)

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